GOD’S SPIRIT GIVES US POWER, LOVE AND SELF-DISCIPLINE

2 Timothy 1:7 For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.

Timothy Background

Timothy was from Lystra (Acts 16:1) where Paul had been stoned and left for dead (Acts 14:19). His decision to go with Paul on Paul’s second missionary journey was a courageous one.

I Corinthians 16:10 When Timothy comes, see to it that he has nothing to fear while he is with you, for he is carrying on the work of the Lord, just as I am.

Only Paul and Silas are chased out of Thessalonica (Acts 17:10); only Paul is escorted to Athens, while Silas and Timothy stayed in Berea (Acts 17:13-15).

I Timothy 1:3&4a As I urged you when I went into Macedonia, stay there in Ephesus so that you may command certain people not to tach false doctrines and longer or to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies.

Hebrews 13:23 I want you to know that our brother Timothy has been released. If he arrives soon, I will come with him to see you.

Immediate Context

2 Timothy 1:6-8 For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For the Spirit God gives us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner. Rather, join me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God.

2 Timothy 4:1d-5 I give you this charge: Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage - with great patience and careful instruction…But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

2 Timothy 1:7

“The Spirit God gives us does not make us timid.” “Timid” translates a Greek word that can be translated timid, fearful or even cowardly. Proverbs 28:1 says, “The wicked flee though no one pursues, but the righteous are as bold as a lion.”

Proverbs 29:25 Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is kept safe.

Luke 12:4&5 “I tell you, my friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that can do no more. But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear him who, after your body has been killed, has authority to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you fear him.”

Luke 12:6&7 “Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.”

Proverbs 9:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

“The Spirit God gave us gives us… power.” The word “power” translates *“dunamis,”* from which we get our English word dynamite. It is the word translated power in Acts 1:8 “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Ephesians 1:18-21 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

2 Peter 1:3 His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

Galatians 5:16 So I say, walk by the Spirit and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

“The Spirit God gave us…gives us…love.” The Greek word translated love is *“agape,”* self-sacrificial love, the love that puts the welfare of another above one’s own welfare. It is not primarily a word about emotion.

I John 4:7-9 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

I John 4:10-12 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

Matthew 22:37-40 Jesus replied: “ ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is lit it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the law and the prophets hang on these two commandments.”

“The Spirit God gave us…gives us…self-discipline.” The Greek word translated “self-discipline” is a compound Greek word, combining the word for mind with the word for saved. Nine translations translate the word as “a sound mind,” six as “sound” or “good judgment.” But the most frequent way it is translated is
“self-controlled” (twenty times) or “self-disciplined” or “disciplined” (seventeen times). The idea seems to be that the Holy Spirit changes how we think; helping us to make sound decisions based on what is true and right rather than on fleshly desires, or in this context, based on the fear of man.

Romans 8:5-7 Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law, nor can it do so.

Romans 8:17 And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God’s people in accordance with the will of God.

I Corinthians 6:17(NASB) But the one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit with Him.

Things to Remember

Timothy appears to be someone who had made courageous decisions, but whose natural tendency was to avoid conflict. His mentor Paul is writing to him from prison encouraging him and us to be bold in fulfilling what God has given him and us to do.

God’s Spirit does not make us timid, fearful or cowardly.

God’s Spirit gives us the power to do anything He asks us to do.

God’s Spirit makes us love others even when it costs us.

God’s Spirit causes us to see things from God’s perspective and make decisions based on what is true and right, not on the fear of man or the desires of our flesh.